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December 6, 2001

Honorable J. Frederick Motz
United. States District Court
101 Lombard Street, Suite 510
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Judge Motz:

I am writing to strongly urge that you approve the proposed Microsoft settlement plan.

As you know, under the proposed settlement, Microsoft would provide more than \$1 billion dollars worth of computers, software and related services to students in public schools across our country with a majority of low-income families. The impact on students in New York City public schools alone, where almost 70% of students are from low-income families, would be immeasurable.

Criticism from some that computers "by themselves" don't improve schools is the very reason that the proposal's architects built in the component requiring related training for teachers, administrators and support personnel. Furthermore, local schools *would* indeed be able to choose from Microsoft or non-Microsoft technology for use by their students.

If our children are to rise to the challenge posed by the global economy, and in this era of rising standards for academic achievement, every school needs all of the resources possible, including state-of-the-art technology. Regardless of any other aspect of the long and complex Microsoft litigation, the proposed school technology component would bring tens of millions of dollars worth of much needed technology and support services to New York City and to other public schools.

I agree with New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who has certainly been tough on Microsoft, that this settlement is in the best interest of the public and would tremendously benefit the public education of our children.

Sincerely,

STEVEN SANDERS
Chairman
Committee on Education

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